

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the present application. No claims have been cancelled. Claims 1, 14, 22, 28 and 31 have been amended. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-24 and 26-33 are presented for examination.

Drawings

A replacement drawing of Figure 2B is respectfully submitted herewith to correct typographical errors around blocks 225, 227 and 229. The corrections are supported by Applicant's Specification at page 10, lines 2-4. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Dabney

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 9, 10, 14-18, 22-26, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by Dabney et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,643,663 ("Dabney"). Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are not anticipated by Dabney.

Dabney discloses a workflow for handling news stories using a content management system (CMS). When a news story breaks, reporters cover the news story. Content for the news story is prepared by human news editors. After approval, the completed news story is stored on content servers for distribution.

Independent claims 1, 14, 22 and 28, as amended, include the limitation of receiving votes online from multiple collaborators to determine whether content from the collaborators is included in a story. Applicant respectfully submits that Dabney does not disclose this limitation. The Examiner has interpreted including news story data in a story as approving portions of the story. However, Dabney does not disclose that the human news editors who prepare the story vote online to determine if their contributed content is included in the story. Instead, Dabney discloses that news editors approve a completed news story that was prepared. Thus, Dabney's approval by news editors is not equivalent to the claimed voting online by collaborators on their contributed content.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 14, 22, and 28 and claims 2-6, 9, 10, 15-18, 23-24, 26 and 29 that depend from them, are not anticipated by Dabney, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Dabney in view of Plantz

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dabney in view of Plantz et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,088,702 ("Plantz"). Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are patentable over the combination of Dabney and Plantz.

Plantz discloses a Group Publishing System for permitting coordinated publishing, assembly and administration of texts by authors or editors. When an editor signs into the system, access is given to the editor to a menu of topics, subtopics, or chapters for which work by the authors is either complete or which is awaiting editing. A menu of topics that have already been edited by this editor and which are approved for further editing by other types of editors (e.g. a grammar editor) is also provided.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from independent claim 1. Independent claim 1, as amended, includes the limitation of determining if the content from each of the multiple collaborators is approved for inclusion in the story based on votes received online from the multiple collaborators. As discussed above for claim 1, Dabney does not teach or suggest this limitation. Applicant respectfully submits that Plantz also does not teach or suggest the missing limitation. Plantz is directed to coordinating the assembly of texts, and does not teach or suggest voting by collaborators on their contributed content, as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7 and 8 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Dabney and Plantz under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

Dabney in view of Mullins

Claims 11-13, 19-21, 27 and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dabney in view of Mullins, U.S. Patent No. 5,100,154

("Mullins"). Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are patentable over the combination of Dabney and Mullins.

Mullins discloses a game for participants to share in the composition of short stories. Participants compose beginnings of a short story in the genre chosen, about a character described by the character cards and write as much as possible within a set time limit. At the end of the time limit, story compositions are passed to another player and writing continues. The process is repeated until all participants have contributed to every other participant's story. The stories are read and awards are given for the final compositions in categories such as best title and best ending. The awards are determined based on voting by a show of hands by the participants.

Claims 11-13, 19-21, 27, 30 and 32-33 depend from independent claims 1, 14, 22 and 31. Independent claims 1, 14, 22, as amended, include the limitation of receiving votes online from multiple collaborators to determine whether content from the collaborators is included in a story. As discussed above for independent claims 1, 14 and 22, Dabney does not teach or suggest this limitation. Applicant respectfully submits that Mullins also does not teach or suggest the missing limitation. Mullins is directed to voting on finalized stories to award trophies. The participants in Mullins do not vote online to determine if their content is included in the story, as claimed. Furthermore, independent claim 31, as amended, includes the limitation of receiving a vote from the viewer of the story online. Mullins does not teach or suggest voting online, as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11-13, 19-21, 27 and 30-33 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Dabney and Mullins under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments and discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome and the pending claims are in condition for allowance.


If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of the claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Scott Heilesen at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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